



# EOHHS Public Listening Session

**MassHealth Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver  
Renewal Application: *Frail Elder Waiver***

August 1, 2023

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***Thank you!***

# Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview of Waiver Renewal
- Summary of Changes Being Proposed
- Process and Timeline
- Public Comments

# Common Acronyms and Terms

CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
EOHHS	Executive Office of Health and Human Services
HCBS	Home and Community Based Services
MassHealth	The Massachusetts Medicaid Program
EOEA	Executive Office of Elder Affairs
FEW	Frail Elder Waiver

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# Overview: Waiver Renewal Process

- CMS typically approves Home and Community Based Services waivers for a period of five years.
- Waivers must then be renewed with CMS.
- MassHealth and EOEa jointly developed the renewal application.
- The draft waiver renewal application is posted for a 30-day public comment period that ends on August 11, 2023.
- Today we are holding a listening session to hear public comments about the renewal application.

# Overview: FEW Waiver

The FEW provides the needed community services and supports to individuals who would otherwise need facility-based care.

To qualify for FEW, an individual must:

- Be either
  - 60-64 years of age and permanently and totally disabled, or
  - 65 years of age or older
- Be certified to require a nursing-facility level of services
- Be able to be safely served in the community within the terms of FEW
- Meet the special financial requirements to qualify for MassHealth

Standard in the community

FEW participants aged 65 and older may choose to enroll in a Senior Care Options plan and would access all services through the plan. Participants not enrolled in a plan access services through the Aging Services Access Points network.

# Summary of Proposed Changes in this Renewal

- Adding two new waiver services:
  - Assisted Transportation, which is the provision of assistance, escort, and transportation to enable participants to access waiver services, and other community services, activities, and resources; and,
  - Electronic Comfort Pets, which is designed to acquire battery operated, life-like, interactive pets that facilitate companionship without assuming the responsibilities and expense of taking care of a real pet. This service helps individuals impacted by behavioral health conditions, social isolation, loneliness and allows consumers to receive similar gratification and comfort that they would get from live pets.

# Summary of Proposed Changes in this Renewal

- Adding language in the “Complex Care Training and Oversight” service definition to clarify that the service includes the provision of education and services requiring specialized skills related to the participants health conditions promoting health and welfare.
- Revising some of the provider qualifications for the Transportation service to ensure health and safety of participants.
- Expanding the description of the current critical incident reporting systems.
- Updating descriptions of operational and administrative processes to reflect current procedures and systems, including replacing any mention of the Senior Information Management System (SIMS) with its new name: EOEA Designated Cloud-Based Data Enterprise System.



# Summary of Proposed Changes in this Renewal

- Adding a self-direction option for two waiver services:
  - Companion
  - Homemaker
- Adding Self-direction required the completion of Appendix E, which:
  - outlines the processes by which the state will offer self-direction in this waiver
  - includes the state's goals for participation in self-direction over the course of this waiver renewal period
  - describes the contracting process with a fiscal intermediary that will be responsible for supporting participants as the employer of self-directed services

# Process: HCBS Waiver Renewal

1. EOEa and MassHealth collaborate to identify updates
2. Gather public input
3. Review public comments and make additional revisions to renewed applications where appropriate
4. Request CMS approval
5. Implement updates when waiver renewal authorization period begins

# Timeline

Request approval from CMS at least three months prior to desired effective date

Target submission date	Target effective date
September 2023	January 1, 2024

# Public Comment: EOHHS requests public input

- **Last day to submit comments: August 11, 2023**
- Comments can be submitted via email or mail to EOHHS:
  - Email: [HCBSWaivers@mass.gov](mailto:HCBSWaivers@mass.gov) (Please state “Frail Elder Waiver Renewal Comments” in the subject line)
  - Mail: HCBS Waiver Unit, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, RE: Frail Elder Waiver Renewal Comments, 1 Ashburton Place, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02108
- The application with proposed changes and this presentation are posted online:
  - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/home-and-community-based-services-waiver-renewal-and-amendment-applications-public-input-process>
  - Hard copies of the application with proposed changes are available upon request. Please use email or mailing address above.

# Public Comment:

## Oral Comments at Today's Listening Session

- Share your input with us today
  - Please state your name and affiliation (e.g., waiver participant, family member, waiver service provider, etc.)
- Oral comment at today's session does **not** need to be submitted in writing
- If you wish to provide comments but are unable to do so during today's session, please email or mail your comments by August 11, 2023.

***Thank you!***